

DRAFT Minutes of Finance and Governance Committee
Illinois P-20 Council
June 29, 2011

This meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee was held at the Illinois Community College office at 401 Capitol Avenue on June 29, 2011. Co-Chair Ray Hancock called the meeting to order. Also participating in the meeting: Laurel Prussing, co-chair; D.K.Hirner (for the Lt. Governor), Crystal Olson, Michael Johnson, Eric Lichtenberger, Paul Sarvela (for Glen Poshard), Gwen Bowman, House Democrat staff (for Linda Chapa La Via), Kathy Ryg (by phone), P20 staff Ann Courter. Committee members not able to attend: Ron Bullock, Perry Buckley, Dan Harris.

Minutes of the May 11 meeting were approved as amended on page 2 to read: "At some community colleges, it is even possible to earn a degree granted by a 4-year institution if the IBHE approves the courses."

The P-20 Council committee chairs were invited to make a presentation at the Illinois Education Research Council Symposium on June 8, 2011 in Bloomington. Ray Hancock reviewed with the committee the slides he showed on June 8, and invited suggestions for revisions for the July 27 P-20 Council meeting. Laurel Prussing presented a Restatement of Priorities, organizing the 18 recommendations into a list of 4 (with subparts), for discussion. The committee agreed with the need to keep identifying high-achieving schools, principals, and teachers, and to also consider best practices from other countries.

The committee plans to identify possible improvements in Illinois governance and finance of P-20 education, to support coordination between high schools, community college, and universities; improving professional practices for teachers and administrators; and strengthening educational achievement in early grades to avoid the need for later remediation.

There is strong support in the committee for stable financing of public education, and more equitable and efficient use of existing resources.

There was discussion of the history of vocational education in Illinois, and how to build on this rich history in the current plans for career and technical education. The committee was in agreement about the importance of providing incentives and funding to support strong programs to train high school students in technical fields, and at the same time providing a solid academic foundation. Through collaboration with local employers and unions, programs such as training in diesel mechanics, medical services, welding, building trades, coal mining, and printing are available in some but not all parts of the state. The goal is to utilize current resources in the most efficient and equitable way, and providing opportunities for all students to have access to jobs now and in the future.

The committee decided to revise the earlier recommendation to play a large role in the K-12 consolidation work authorized in recent legislation, and instead plan to provide a P-20 perspective in consolidation discussions by bringing attention to community college boundaries,

preschool programming and teacher training, regional offices of education, and university resources to support K-12 schools that are struggling or are candidates for consolidation.

The committee will work to compile a description of the governance structure of P-20 education in the state as a starting point for improvement. A list of current school funding study groups will also be assembled. There was discussion of the “School Problems Commission” that operated in the past to screen all legislation prior to committee assignment, and the value of such a group. The pros and cons of electing state boards and superintendents were reviewed, and tabled for future discussion.

Paul Sarvela will be setting up the Longitudinal Data System governance group July 28 meeting, and will not be able to participate in the July 27 P-20 Council meeting. The rest of the committee is encouraged to attend and participate in the committee’s report. Eric will prepare a draft report to circulate to the committee members.